OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
INSPECTIONS UNIT

ALPR Audit
1st Quarter FY 25-26

Completed: 10-6-2025

Purpose

DOI 1110-07 describes the management of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) and Internet Protocol camera systems. Specifically, the policy dictates “All data obtained and stored through use of ALPRs is considered a record of a criminal investigation pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132- 1.4 and shall be used solely for the purpose of attempting to prevent, solve, or detect violations of the law”. The policy also dictates the storage and preservation of data. Per policy and general statute, the ALPR system shall be audited annually. The Inspections Unit has been tasked with conducting quarterly audits of the ALPR systems concerning their use and effectiveness.

Method

The Raleigh Police Department currently utilizes two ALPR systems, FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN. A representative from the Inspections unit maintains an administrative license to both systems for purposes of conducting periodic audits. There are five areas inspected during the quarterly audit: user accounts, devices, transactions/queries, reason codes, and outcomes. Inspection of these areas helps ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 and NCGS 20-183.32, as well as providing data on the use and effectiveness of the systems.

For this audit, a member of the Inspections Unit selects a 30-day period during the fiscal quarter and runs queries for each of the focus areas within the confines of that particular system. Not all information is available from each system due to the design of the programs.

Inspection

The Inspections Unit conducted an audit of the FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN systems. Data was pulled from each system for the month of August 2025 (8/1/25 – 8/31/25).

FLOCK

Users

On the date the data was pulled, there were 401 users listed as active, and 49 users were in deactivated status. 127 users had not logged in during the evaluation period, and 78 of those users hadn’t logged into Flock at all in 2025.

Devices

There are 34 active FLOCK devices, one of which is a FLEX camera that we’re testing, and two of the devices are scheduled to be replaced on October 4, 2025.

Transactions

During the month of August 2025, there were a total of 4736 queries/searches of the FLOCK database. Approximately 560 of these queries did not have a proper reason code listed. 55 different users are responsible for the improper reason codes. Of those 55, only 8 had more than 10 errors. Proper reason codes are listed in the Patrol Resource Guide and include a case number, CAD incident number, CR number, or name. Most of the improper codes were descriptions of the crime being investigated. Proper reason codes are necessary to ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4.

Outcomes

During the month of August 2025, 52 cases were listed as being assisted or closed based on a notification from the FLOCK system. Out of those 50 cases, 24 vehicles were recovered, 17 persons were arrested or warrants issued, and 3 guns were recovered.

Vigilant LEARN

Users

On the date the data was pulled, there were 509 users in the database. Only 54 of those accounts were in active status, and 3 were closed; the others were either pending or inactive. 38 users have logged in during the 1st fiscal quarter (7/1/25 – 9/30/25).

Devices

The database of cameras utilized in the Vigilant LEARN system is made up of a multitude of agencies and commercial entities all over the country. Raleigh PD does not maintain any mobile devices.

Transactions

During the month of August 2025, there were 620 queries run in the Vigilant LEARN database. Only two users didn't use a case number or other identifier during their queries. To ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 C1, the nature of the violation or apparent violation of the law reported to a public law enforcement agency would need to be added in the search. A report number would also meet the minimum requirements. The two users were notified to include their supervisors to reiterate following protocol when conducting searches.

Outcomes

The Vigilant LEARN system does not maintain this type of information.

Recommendations:

Please consider allowing less restrictive information to be used as a valid reason code when conducting searches with FLOCK or Vigilant. According to NCGS 132-1.4(C1), the "nature of the violation or apparent violation of the law" is an acceptable reason for an inquiry and should be included in the DOI once it is revised.

Please contact Lt. N.J. Grimaldi or Sgt. R.A. Smith with any questions or concerns.